

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 19-34 are pending in this application, of which claims 19, 23, 26, and 31 are independent. By way of this amendment, claims 19, 23, 26, and 31 are amended.

**OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS**

In section 2 on page 2, the Office Action objects to the drawings. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that it would be helpful if the drawings contained descriptive labeling for the elements shown and the steps within the flowcharts. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d), Applicant hereby replaces FIGS. 1-5 with the attached replacement sheets. The replacement sheets conform the drawing labels to the labeling used in the specification and add no new matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests these objections be withdrawn.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

In section 4 on page 3, the Office Action rejects claims 19-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,323,149 to Hoult et al. ("Hoult"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In section 5 on page 10, the Office Action in "Response to Arguments" states that the features relied upon, namely "that the communications device does not always echo the value of at least one of the ID bits received from the slaves and does not always transmit a data bit back to the slaves," are not recited in the rejected claims. Applicant

has therefore amended independent claims 19, 23, 26, and 31 to more explicitly recite this subject matter. This subject matter finds support in, for example, paragraphs [0063] and [0068]-[0069] of the published version of the specification. Specifically, paragraph [0064] states:

In communications device 2, by means of the first receiving means 19, an information unit RIU is received in block 57 in accordance with the receiving method and it is checked in block 58 whether a collision of two different information units IU and IU' occurring essentially simultaneously is represented by the received information unit RIU. As this is not established in communications device 2 by means of the collision detection means 25, the receiving method is continued in block 59... (Emphasis added)

As seen from the quote above, the specification supports the recited subject matter in that the receiving method does not transmit a replacement information unit IU' unless a collision is detected by the communications device. In addition, the delivery method does not receive the replacement information unit unless a collision is detected by the communications device. The independent claims therefore exclude the echo requirement of the device disclosed in Hoult. For reasons including those discussed above, Hoult fails to disclose these and other limitations of claims 19, 23, 26 and 31.

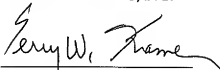
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 19, 23, 26, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 20-22, 24-25, 27-30, and 32-34 depend on claims 19, 23, 26, and 31, respectively and are therefore allowable at least based upon these dependencies. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

requests that the rejection of claims 20-22, 24-25, 27-30, and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the attorney overseeing the application file, Juergen Krause-Polstorff, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9062.

Respectfully submitted,  
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